

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 07033 231426Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 SAM-01 IO-13 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01 OPR-02 OC-06

CCO-00 SY-05 USSS-00 OMB-01 SCCT-01 EB-07 COME-00

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INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 70

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

CIA WASHDC

COMSIXTHFLT

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COM THREE TWO MAU

QTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 7033

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PIN, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION AUG 22-23.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 07033 231426Z

REF: BEIRUT 7027

1. SUMMARY: U.S. EMISSARIES ARRIVE IN CHRISTIANLAND. METN CAMPAIGN STILL DORMANT. HEAVY SHELLING CONTINUES IN EAST AND WEST BEIRUT. FIGHTING ALONG CONFRONTATION LINES, BUT NO CHANGES IN POSITION. MAJOR CHRISTIAN OFFENSIVE MAY BE SHAPING UP AT TRIPOLI. CHAMOUN APPEAL TO UN MAY BE PLOY TO WEAKEN ARAB LEAGUE SUMMIT. SARKIS OR HELOU MAY HEAD LEBANESE DELEGATION TO SUMMIT, AND KARAME WILL PROBABLY GO ALONG. CHRISTIAN SOURCES HINT THREAT THAT SYRIANS MAY UNDERTAKE MAJOR OFFENSIVE EARLY IN SEPTEMBER. EXPECTATION NOW THAT FRANGIE WILL NOT CREATE DIFFICULTIES FOR SARKIS' ASSUMPTION OF POWER LATE IN SEPTMEBER. PHALANGE-PALESTINI AN TALKS ON DIRECT AGREEMENT FOR CEASEFIRE AND PALESTINIAN METN WITHDRAWAL, BUT JUNBLATT SAYS WILL NOT WITHDRAW FROM MOUNTAINS. ABU IYAD ATTACKS SYRIA. PALESTINIAN CONSCRIPTION BEGUN. EVERYONE IN LEBANON IS NOW ACCUSING SOMEONE ELSE OF WORKING FOR PARTITION. MOBIL OIL CALLS I T QUILTS IN LEBANON. END SUMMARY.

2. U.S. DIPLOMATIC MISSION TO CHRISTIAN AREA. TWO STATE DEPT OFFICERS ARRIVED AUG 21 IN JOUNIEH FOR SEVERAL DAYS OF CALLS ON CHRISTIAN LEADERS. THEY MET PRESIDENT-ELECT SARKIS AUG 22 AND ARE SCHEDULED TO MEET PRESIDENT FRANGIE AUG 23. LEBANESE PRESS COVERAGE HAS SO FAR BEEN GENERALLY OBJECTIVE. MODERATE LEBANESE POLITICIANS IN WEST BEIRUT HAVE EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN THAT MISSION MIGHT ENHANCE CHRISTIAN INTERESTS OR PARTITION (SEPTELS).

3. GROUND SITUATION. METN. STILL NO OFFENSIVE ACTION BY CHRISITANS OR SYRIANS, OTHER THAN HEAVY ARTILLERY FIRE ON PALESTINIAN REDOUBTS. AMERICAN JOURNALIST WHO VISITED AREA AUG 21 TELLS US THAT BOTH PALESTINAINS AND LEBANESE LEFTISTS ARE IN MTEIN, BUT AINTOURA APPEARS TO BE ALMOST ENTIRELY PALESTINIAN-OCCUPIED. HE SAID PALESTINAIN COMMANDER AT MTEIN RECENTLY KILLED, AND REPLACED. JUNBLATT SAYS HIS FORCES WILL NEVER WITHDRAW FROM MOUNTAIN AREA UNTIL TALK OF PARTITION CEASES AND UNTIL MOSLEMS DISPLACED BY CHRISTIANS FROM THEIR HOMES AT KARANTINA, TELL ZAATAR AND ELSEWHERE ARE RETURNED.

4. BEIRUT AREA. HEAVY INDISCRIMINATE ARTILLERY FIRE BETWEEN EAST AND CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 07033 231426Z

WEST BEIRUT CONTINUES. AREAS HARDEST HIT IN WEST BEIRUT INCLUDE MOUSSEIBTE, RUE VERDUN, HAMRA AND AUB. MORTAR SHELL OUTSIDE OF BRITISH EMBASSY AUG 22 CAUSED DAMAGE BUT NO INJURIES. GRAND MUFTI OF THE REPUBLIC, HASSAN KHALED, HAS ADDED VOICE TO CHORUS OF PROTESTS AGAINST SHELLINGS. BECHIR GEMAYEL BLAMES NATIONAL MOVEMENT, AND PREDICTED THAT SHELLINGS WILL CONTINUE AS LONG AS WAR ITSELF. HEAVY ATTACKS ALONG CONFRONTATION LINE, LEFTIST/PALESTINIAN OFFENSIVE AND VARIOUS GROUND ACTIONS REPORTED BY BOTH SIDES, BUT NO CHANGES IN AREA

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OF CONTROL. HEAVIEST FIGHTING AROUND AIN EL-RUMANNEH-CHIAH, WHERE 33 ESTIMATED KILLED. HEAVIEST FIGHTING IN CITY SUBURBS AT HADETH AND LAILAKI, WHERE 23 ESTIMATED KILLED. OUTSIDE OF CITY, LEFTISTS CLAIM HAVE SENT REINFORCEMENTS TO MONTE VERDE AREA, AND RIGHTISTS CLAIM THA

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ESCAPEES FROM TELL ZAATAR STILL IN AREA. BOTH SIDES SAY PALESTINIANS

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LEFTISTS LAUNCHED ATTACK ON CHRISTIAN-HELD KAHALE.

5. GROUND SITUATION ELSEWHERE. PRESS REPORTS DEVELOPMENT OF MAJOR BATTLE IN TRIPOLI AREA, WHERE CHRISTIANS REPORTEDLY MASSING ON THREE FRONTS AROUND CITY.

SOUTHERN FRONT REPORTEDLY HELD BY PHALANGISTS AND ELEMENTS OF LEBANESE ARMY LED BY COL. BARAKAT. HEAVY ARTILLERY FIRE ON CITY ITSELF.

KPRESS SPECULATES THAT CITY HAS AMBPLE SUPPLIES TO ENDURE LONG SIEGE. LEFTISTS CONTINUE DENY REPEATED CHRISTIAN CLAIMS TO HAVE TAKE

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VILLAGE OF ALMA. IN SOUTH, SYRIANS AT JEZZINE CONTINUE TO BOMBARD PALESTINIANS AT ROUM. AL-MUHARRIR SPECULATES THAT SYRIANS MAY RETURN TO SIDON, TO ENFORCE INTERDICTION OF THAT PORT NOW THAT ISRAELIS HAVE APPARENTLY GIVEN UP NAVAL BLOCKADE. WE HAVE SEVERAL UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF QUARRELING WITHIN LEFTIST RANKS AND BETWEEN LEFTISTS AND PALESTINIANS IN SOUTHERN AREA. IT ALSO APPEARS THAT JUNBLATT IS OPPOSED TO PALESTINIAN DECISION TO SETTLE TELL ZAATAR REFUGEES AT DAMOUR.

6. CHAMOUN'S APPEAL TO UNITED NATIONS. PRESS REPORTS ACTION BY LEBANESE UN DELEGATION TO PUT LEBANESE QUESTION ON UNGA CALENDAR JUST DAY AFTER CHAMOUN DENIED HE INTENDED TO DO SO, AND SPECULATES THAT MOVE IS EFFORT TO HEAD OFF UNDUE PRESSURE ON CHRISTIA

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PAGE 04 BEIRUT 07033 231426Z

SIDE DURING ARAB LEAGUE SUMMIT MEETING. PRO-IRAQI AL-DASTOURLSAYS THAT U.S. PASSED MESSAGE TO FRANGIE VIA UN AMBASSADOR GHORRA MONTH AGO OPPOSING INTERNATIONALIZATION OF LEBANESE CRISIS ON GROUNDS THAT THIS WOULD INITIATE SOVIET PRESENCE IN AREA.

7. ARAB LEAGUE ACTIVITIES. KARAME REPORTED AS AGREEABLE TO SUMMIT MEETING, AND TO PARTICIPATE HIMSELF, IF LEBANESE DELEGATION HEADED BY SARKIS. FROM ANOTHER SOURCE WE HEAR THAT CHARLES HELOU MAY BE LEBANESE REPRESENTATIVE (SEPTEL). AL DEPUTY KHOLI EXPECTED TRAVEL FRO

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CAIRO TO DAMASCUS AUG 23. LIBYAN EMISSARY DOURDAH WENT TO DAMASCUS AUG 22.

8. LEBANESE RIGHT. CHARLES HELOU CALLS FOR REVISION OF CAIRO ACCORDS ON PALESTINIAN STATUS, SAYING THAT ACCORDS CONCLUDED DURING HIS

PRESIDENCY IN 1969 WERE AGREED TO BY LEBANON IN MIDST OF PROLONGED GOVERNMENT CRISIS, UNDER HEAVY ARAB WORLD PRESSURE, AND WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT ACCORDS WOULD BE MERELY PART OF GLOBAL PALESTINIAN SOLUTION. PRESS QUOTES CIRCLES CLOSE TO PRESIDENT-ELECT SARKIS AS SAYING THAT SYRIANS ARE DETERMINED TO ESTABLISH CLIMATE OF SECURITY IN LEBANON BEFORE SARKIS ASSUMES OFFICE, AND PHALANGISTS SAY THAT SYRIANS WILL UNDERTAKE LARGE-SCALE MILITARY OPERATIONS IN LEBANON BEGINNING SEPT 5 IF NO POLITICAL PROGRESS MADE BEFORE THAT TIME. PIERRE GEMAYEL SAYS HE SEES "LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL" AND SAYS LEBANESE PARTIES MUST FIND "NEW FORMULA FOR COEXISTENCE." BOTH L'ORIENT AND AL-MUHARRIR REPORT AUG 23 THAT FRANGIE IS PREPARED TO TURN OVER POWERS OF OFFICE ON SEPT 23 AT EHDEN. SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE KAMEL AL ASSAD REPORTED HOPEFUL THAT SARKIS CAN TAKE OATH OF OFFICE ON SAME DATE BEFORE PARLIAMENT.

9. PHALANGE-PALESTINIAN MEETING. SAEB SALAM HOSTED LUNCH AUG 21 FOR BOTH PHALANGE REPRESENTATIVES (ALEXANDER GEMAYEL AND JOSEPH ABU SHARAF) AND PALESTINIAN LEADERS. AN-NAHAR REPORTS PHALANGE OFFERED PLAN WHEREBY PALESTINIANS WOULD WITHDRAW FROM MOUNTAINS, AND PHALANGE WOULD ISSUE DECLARATION THAT WAR WAS ENDED AND CALL FOR LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN DIALOGUE. BOTH SIDES AGREED TO CHECK WITH THEIR ALLIES.

10. PALESTINIANS AND LEFTISTS. PLO LEADER SALAH KHALAF (ABU IYAD) IN SPEECH AUG 21 VIOLENTLY ATTACKED SYRIA AS EXECUTOR OF CONSPIRACY AND ALLY OF ISOLATIONISTS. PLO IN BOTH BEIRUT AREA AND SIDON HAS BEGUN CONSCRIPTION OF ABLE-BODIED YOUNG PALESTINIANS OFF THE STREET.
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 05 BEIRUT 07033 231426Z

300 ROUNDED UP IN AIN EL HILWA CAMP ALONE, ACCORDING TO AS-SAFIR. LAA COMMANDER LT. KHATIB SAYS LEBANESE WILL NOT BE CONSCRIPTED.

11. PARTITION ACCUSATIONS. VIRTUALLY ALL SIDES TO LEBANESE WAR NOW ACCUSING ONE ANOTHER OF PROMOTING PARTITION. JUNBLATT SAYS "WE WILL PREVENT CREATION OF A MARONITE RACIST STATE, WHICH WOULD BE A SECOND ISRAEL." TONY FRANGIE SAYS BOTH JUNBLATT AND ARAFAT SEEKING PARTITION, AND THAT PALESTINIANS WANT TO TRADE WEST BANK FOR SOUTH LEBANON. RAYMOND EDDE, ALWAYS TWO STEPS AHEAD OF EVERYBODY ELSE, SAYS LEBANON HAS ALREADY PASSED THROUGH PHASE OF "CYPRIOTIZATION" AND IS NOW ENTERING PHASE OF "VIETNAMIZATION."

12. MOBIL OIL OF LEBANON HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT IS CLOSING DOWN OPERATIONS IN LEBANON AS OF AUG 31.
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